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Flemington

Where Town and Country meet

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FLEMINGTON

WHERE TOWN *and* COUNTRY MEET

Issued by Board of Trade
Flemington, N. J.

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20 VESEY STREET, NEW YORK

Photo by Miss Sunderlin, Flemington.

Bird's-Eye View of Flemington

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WHERE TOWN AND COUNTRY MEET

By ALEXANDER B. ALLEN

FLEMINGTON, located in the northwestern part of New Jersey, about fifty miles from the New York City Hall, and an equal distance from Independence Hall in the City of Philadelphia, a beautiful town of 2,500 population, ideally located either for business, manufacturing, or residential purpose, is served by three of the best railroad corporations of this country, viz.: the Pennsylvania, the New Jersey Central, and the Lehigh Valley Railroads. These furnish facilities for placing our manufactured products in quick time to all points of the compass, and give us equally quick passenger service to the large cities of the East. Express trains land us in New York City in one hour and fifteen minutes. Mail facilities are first class. The town is noted for its healthfulness, and also its entire immunity from all malarial disease. It is practically exempt from mosquitoes, which may seem strange to readers of this article, but nevertheless is true. Macadam roads extend from the town so that either New York or Philadelphia can be reached on macadam from Flemington. The scenery is attractive, presenting a panorama of hill and dale, rivulet and stream. Prosperous and beautiful farms attract the eye, and the call "Back to Nature" has caused many city dwellers to procure farms in this locality where peace and plenty prevail, and where bountiful crops repay

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FLEMINGTON, N. J.

the husbandman. The South Branch of the Raritan River, a beautiful stream, runs just east of the town, furnishing good fishing and boating. The people of the town are educated and refined. Locations for manufacturing are at the disposal of the Board of Trade on three railroads, and favorable arrangements can be made by anyone desiring to locate manufacturing plants on either of these roads. If you desire a place of residence where all are congenial, or if you desire to manufacture, do not fail to communicate with the Board of Trade.

Two financial institutions of which this whole community is proud are located here. The Hunterdon County National Bank is the oldest financial institution in Hunterdon County, chartered as a national bank in May, 1865, as a successor of the old Hunterdon County Bank, organized under the State Banking Laws in 1854. It is to-day stronger than at any time in its long history, notwithstanding the fact that eleven other national banks have been organized in this county since the date of its Charter, all of which are in a flourishing condition to-day. The total resources of this Bank are $1,096,223. Conservative, yet progressive in its management, its present officers are men who have the interests of the town at heart and stand ready to lend such financial aid to its patrons as good business judgment would dictate. The Bank is on an eight per cent. basis, which it has paid its stockholders for a long time past.

The Flemington National Bank, chartered on April 22, 1876, has been exceptionally successful, its resources to-day totaling $842,356. In the year 1897 this institution erected one of the finest bank buildings to be found in a place of this size, fitting the same with all modern conveniences for conducting its large and growing business. It has large fire and burglar proof vaults with

safe deposit boxes for its patrons, thus giving our community the advantage of such service. Live business men compose its Board of Directors to-day as in its past history, and every accommodation is extended its patrons consistent with good business management. It is on a safe eight per cent. basis, and has been for a long time. Saving departments are conducted by both of these institutions.

The water supply of the town is ample for all demands, and of excellent quality. The Flemington Water Company, chartered by the State of New Jersey in 1859, built reservoirs and laid pipes through the principal streets and piped water from springs on the hills west of the town, since which time other sources have been called into use from time to time as demands required. About fifteen years ago new pipes were laid throughout the whole town. These pipes were laid with the idea of affording a sufficient supply for all purposes, but more especially that the town might have such protection from fire as the enlarged pipes would afford. So that to-day all fire hydrants are on large mains at convenient places, thus insuring our inhabitants against conflagration.

Both gas and electricity furnish plenty of illuminant for the town. The Flemington Gas Light Company was incorporated in 1859 and erected a first class gas plant. This plant, proving that it was inadequate for the demands made upon it, its Board of Directors rebuilt the plant complete last year, running its mains on all the streets of the town. A first class article is manufactured so that its patrons are pleased and new business is being continually added to its former list of customers.

In 1894 the Flemington Electric Light, Heat and Power Company was chartered. An up-to-date plant was built—a contract was entered into with our town authorities for a street lighting service, consisting mostly of arc lights, with only a few incandescent lights. This contract has been renewed with the same company for street lighting from time to time. At this time we are lighting the town with fifty-one arc and a dozen incandescent lights, and the Electric Company is newly equipping its plant with dynamos and new arc lamps, placing the plant in first class con-

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JOHN FORAN, *Vice-President*
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dition. The streets are as well lighted as any in the State. About thirty-five hundred incandescent lights are supplied by this company to more than well pleased private customers.

Flemington's sewer system is unsurpassed by any in the State of New Jersey. Eleven years ago the town built a small pipe sewer system, under the engineering management of the Colonel Waring Co. of New York City, with filtration fields located at a distance from the town, since which time most of the properties here have been connected with the sewer. The system has worked perfectly and the residents have enjoyed good health, no contagious disease has ravaged our community; we are clean, healthy, and sanitary.

Three large and commodious hotels with all modern improvements cater to the needs of the traveling public. Excellent livery stables are also connected with these hotels so that patrons can be furnished vehicles of all descriptions. These hotels are the exclusive holders of licenses to sell beverages; no saloon is licensed in the town.

The Fire Department is equipped with modern and up-to-date engines, hook and ladder trucks, and an electric fire alarm system. Volunteer companies handle these equipments. They are uniformed and receive great praise when appearing at firemen's parades throughout the country. Good houses for the apparatus also mark the progress of the town

The Adams and United States Express Companies both have offices here and the service is such that no reasonable complaint can be made. In addition, an express messenger service between here and New York has been carried on for the last twenty years, daily. So that business men and any others may avail themselves of this convenience at a trifling cost.

The Western Union and Postal Telegraph Companies operate offices here for business throughout this country and cable service to all parts of the world.

Both local and long distance telephone companies have offices here and accept business at reasonable rates.

The business houses of the town are all substantially constructed, and all kinds of business usually found in a place of this size are conducted by up-to-date business people.

Photos by Miss Sunderlin, Flemington.

Residences: (1) *J. V. Higgins.* (2) *J. B. Case.* (3) *R. S. Kuhl.* (4) *Fleming's Castle*

Flemington possesses three weekly papers, each having a large circulation throughout the County and other parts of the State. Of these, the *Hunterdon County Democrat,* established September 5th, 1838, is the oldest. The other publications being organized at later dates, as follows: The *Hunterdon Republican* in 1856 and the *Democrat Advertiser* in 1879. All these papers are up-to-date publications, and in addition to publishing their weeklies, job printing of all descriptions is done by each. The editorial and business management of these papers is based upon broad and liberal constructions and their pages are always open to civic possibilities of a progressive character.

Fifty-two automobiles are owned in the town. Two garages are required to attend to the wants of their owners. A new substantial concrete garage building, occupying a floor space of seventy feet square, has been erected by a newly organized company, capitalized at $25,000.

The manufacturing industries of the town are diversified. The Foran Foundry and Manufacturing Company does a general foundry business, its output going chiefly to the surrounding cities. About one hundred and fifty employees are engaged at this plant.

The Empire Cut Glass Company has been located here since November, 1902. This firm had previously carried on business in New York City, but attracted by the liberal offer made them by the Flemington Board of Trade, and pleased with the aspect of the town as a residence for themselves and employees, the officers decided to transfer their office and factory to this place. The product of the factory is unexcelled; one cannot fail to admire the excellent workmanship, the beautiful finish, and the artistic designs which make Empire Cut Glass so popular. The output consists principally of table ware. About one hundred and twenty-five men are employed in its manufacture.

The Flemington Cut Glass Company, incorporated in 1906, started in a small way with the assistance of the Board of Trade, and to-day is in a flourishing condition. Its wares are appreciated and its business has steadily grown until it to-day ships its goods over a large territory, and employs skilled cutters at good wages.

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The Fulper Pottery Company, established in 1805, is the only stone ware pottery east of Ohio. The water filter manufactured by this firm is sold in all civilized nations. Recently it has begun the manufacture of Art Pottery, having discovered an art glaze long lost. It employs a large number of skilled artisans.

Other industries in Flemington worthy of mention are: The Flemington Milling Co., The Lambert Hoffman Machine Co., The New Jersey Cider Vinegar Works, the Messenger Glove Co., Culvert Co., The Mallory Shutter Worker, The Flemington Brick Co.

The citizens of Flemington owe a great deal to its Board of Trade. The gentlemen composing this organization have always demonstrated a willingness to push the town forward, whether along commercial, industrial or residential lines. Of course to Nature Flemingtonians must acknowledge a great deal, but where Nature ceased or overlooked Man has stepped into the breach and initiated. And that Man has done these things for pure love and loyalty to his community deserves fitting recognition.

AS A MUSICAL CENTRE

By ELIZABETH BARTLES HAWKE

MUSICALLY, Flemington takes a rank as high as any town of its size in the country. For the past ten years the larger oratorios have been given by the town choral society, aided by prominent oratorio soloists. There are excellent piano, organ and vocal teachers resident in the town. All the churches support children's choirs where the training, not only in vocalization, but deportment is unexcelled and each church has also a fine organ. These children's choirs are constantly developing new material for the adult choirs of the various churches, and the adult, as well as the children's choirs, sing regularly music of a high standard. This training creates an elevating influence which is felt both in the home and in the public schools. Free organ recitals are frequently given by the various organists and the public generally seem to have a keen appreciation of good music.

Photo by Miss Sunderlin, Flemington.

"Heronsbrook," Residence of George W. Campen

Photo by Miss Sunderlin, Flemington.

Residence of William Stothoff, Flemington Junction

Photos by Asher R. Stryker, Flemington, N. J.

Railroad Stations (1) Pennsylvania, (2) Lehigh Valley, (3) New Jersey Central

Photos by Miss Sunderlin, Flemington.

Photos by Miss Sunderlin, Flemington.

(1) *Dr. W. W. Hawke's Residence.* (2) *Public Park.* (3) *High School*

Photos by Greisamer, Flemington.

Residences : (1) *Dr. Harris.* (2) *O. M. La Rue.* (3) *J. E. Farmer.* (4) *John Hill*

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WHAT WOMEN HAVE DONE FOR FLEMINGTON

By MRS. H. A. FLUCK

FROM the days of Esther Fleming and later of her daughter, Esther Lowrey, on down to the present time, woman's greatest work has been wrought in the home. In the little hamlet of Fleming's in 1756, Esther Mounier, of French Huguenot descent, helped her husband, Samuel Fleming, to establish a home, the influence of which is still being felt. (They built a gable house, Castle Fleming, which is yet standing and in good repair.) She was a woman of piety and intelligence and brought up a large family, who in turn made their mark for good. Her daughter Esther married Col. Thomas Lowrey, who was a man of marked business ability, doing much in many ways for the improvement of the place. He was the first merchant and first Congressman, being a member of the Provincial Congress.

Mrs. Lowrey was a woman of refinement, very prominent in social circles and patriotic entertainments. In 1780, when the American army was sadly in need of supplies, she, with nine other ladies by communication with the ladies throughout the county, in twelve days succeeded in raising by voluntary subscriptions, for their relief, the immense sum of $15,408.

"In April, 1789, Mrs. Lowrey was one of the matrons in charge of the ceremonies at Trenton on the memorable occasion of Gen. Washington's reception and passage under the triumphal arch at that place." Like her mother she made a special feature of home life, teaching her children patriotism by telling stories of the early struggles of the colonists.

The mothers of to-day are still sending out from their homes sons and daughters of power and influence. We claim the honor of three vice-chancellors, naval officers, and men of rank in all branches of business at home and abroad.

Woman's work commences at home but does not stop there. Our women are active in church work, having Mission circles and Women's Departments in the various churches, the annual suppers being noted for miles around.

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The W. C. T. U. keep literature in railroad stations and jail, and provide a monthly service in the latter with preaching by the various pastors, and are confident of good results.

The King's Daughters do a large work in general charity, and sometimes investigate cases for the town overseer. They usually give out about $150 worth of goods, but this year Tag Day brought them in about $150, so their work will probably be doubled. Through the aid of the school children they generally distribute about seventy or eighty Thanksgiving dinners.*

The Sunshine Society have sometimes sent sixty or seventy Christmas dinners, fruit and flowers to the sick and girls to read to and amuse "Shut ins."

The Needlework Guild of America was established in Philadelphia in 1885, and the Flemington Guild in 1886 (being the first branch). It has distributed over four thousand garments, some to general charity elsewhere and to hospitals but mostly to local need.

The Woman Relief Corps of the G. A. R. Post have worked along the usual lines. They, every year on Memorial Day, entertain the gradually fading remnants of army veterans. They gave substantial aid in erecting a few years ago a fine monument to fallen soldiers, in fact they raised about $800, and later gave a flag for the band stand in the public park. The Col. Lowrey Chapter of D. A. R. make a specialty of training the children in patriotism. They have placed a tablet on Castle Fleming, now 153 years old, and are preparing to place stones over the unmarked graves of revolutionary soldiers who are buried here.

They have had the honor of donating one of the chairs for the beautiful room that New Jersey D. A. R. are fitting up in Continental Hall in Washington, D. C. The room is the admiration of all visitors, being wainscoted and furnished all of hard oak taken from the frigate "Augusta," which was sunk in the Delaware during the battle of Red Bank. It was raised for this purpose by the Chapters of the State after tests which proved it to be of exceptional beauty and value. This Chapter also expects to contribute toward a chair of the same material to be given by

* Sending jelly to hospitals is their only outside work.

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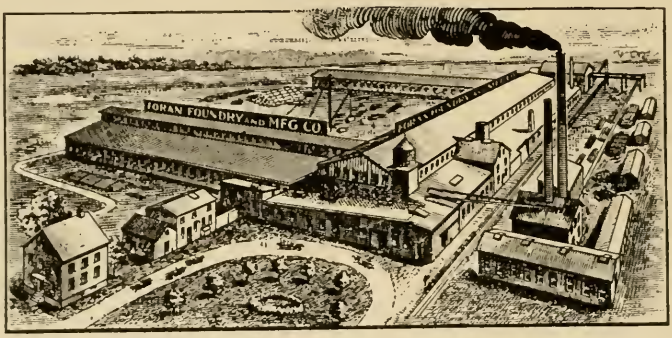

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the Chapters of the State, for the use of the Speaker of the Senate, but to be kept by the government and not to be retained by the Speaker on his retirement, as is the custom.

A few years ago a Woman's Club was started and has established a record. They have beautified unsightly places, put refuse boxes in the streets, raised by subscription money for a drinking fountain, have established and handed over to the town a free library that is wonderfully patronized. A public spirited citizen left $10,000 for a building for library and historical society, and another has given land on which to place it.

They have laid out and decorated a beautiful park, part of which they have purchased, the rest belonging to the County grounds. One evening of every week throughout the summer the band plays there. These band concerts have become so popular that they are to be continued through the winter in the Court House.

Every summer the Club holds a Grand Carnival, making sometimes over $2,000, spending the most of the money for the town, at one time giving a flag for the tall pole in front of the Court House. They established a girls' sewing class which has resulted in a degree of excellence in needle craft which has been surprising, many of the children making their clothing in a manner that shames their elders. They have had placards printed, by which they hope to prohibit spitting on the streets and in public places. They have helped to put works of art in the public schools and have worked in various ways to better conditions there. Incidentally we would say that the school buildings are going to be such as might be an honor to any place continually growing as need requires. The new building about completed is valued at $65,000.

Last, but not least, a Mother's Club has lately been established under very efficient leadership and we expect marked improvement in many ways.

It may not be all woman's work, though woman is usually "behind the throne," but Flemington is far beyond the ordinary town in attractiveness as a place of residence and is very popular as a summer resort. It is more than worthy of investigation.

Photo by Miss Sunderlin, Flemington.

Hunterdon County Court House

Photo by Greisamer, Flemington.

Recently Completed Public School (1909)

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FLEMINGTON, N. J.

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATIONAL FEATURES

By MARCUS L. GLAZER

THE only school in Flemington is the public school. It is located on Bonnell Street, about five minutes' walk from the Court House and away from the business portion of the town. The public school has occupied a part of the present site since 1862, when the old building, known as Reading Academy, was erected. This is a two-story brick structure of eight rooms, now used exclusively by the high school. It was named Reading Academy in honor of Daniel K. Reading, who bequeathed $10,000 for the purchase of grounds and the erection of a building.

A new twelve-room brick building (four rooms of which were erected nine years ago) has just been completed for the use of the grades at a total cost of about $65,000. In addition to the twelve rooms on the two floors, there are rooms for manual training in the basement and an auditorium on the third floor. For beauty of architecture, care in construction, and perfection of equipment we believe this building is not surpassed in New Jersey.

The buildings are on a playground of over four acres, healthful in location and commanding a beautiful view of the surrounding country. The total valuation of the entire plant is eighty thousand dollars.

The school numbers four hundred and fifty pupils. Children are admitted to the kindergarten at four years of age. Between this and the high school there are nine grades, each occupying one year. The high school numbers one hundred and ten pupils, about half of whom come from out of town. Fifteen teachers and the principal comprise the corps of instructors. The principal, a native of this county, is now serving his tenth year. In the selection of teachers he is given large range; and it must be said that his teachers are held in high regard in the community, while for ability, professional spirit, and perseverance in hard work for the advancement of the children they could scarcely be excelled.

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Old Post Office Building Flemington, N. J.

The high school offers three courses, known as the Latin Course, the German Course, and the Commercial Course, each four years in length. In these courses the Latin, German, and Commercial branches respectively are required, along with English, Mathematics, History, and Science. Students are graduated only upon the completion of four years of work. The school prepares for all colleges and the business world. Thoroughness and promotion on merit are the watchwords of the school. Most of the pupils entering college do so on the certificate of the high school, which is accepted wherever pupils are admitted on the certificate of any high school. The graduates of Reading Academy take high rank in the advanced schools that they enter, and many of them are making their mark in the business and professional world.

During the past few years the school has made much progress. In numbers, too, it is growing, both in the grades and the high school. The last small class will be graduated this year. The high school now enrolls students from eight townships. With the increasing popularity of this department, and with the enlargement of our manufacturing interests, our excellent railroad facilities, and the desirability of Flemington as a place of residence constantly attracting new families to town, it would be difficult to predict the size of the future school.

But ample provision has been made for the present and the near future; and the Board of Education, ever alert for the welfare of the children, can be relied upon to take proper care of increasing numbers.

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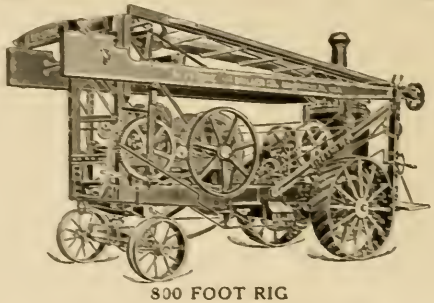

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FLEMINGTON'S DENOMINATIONAL LIFE

By The REV. C. S. WOODRUFF, D D.

FLEMINGTON is well churched. If all her residents were to attend church at a given hour they could all find good, comfortable seats in our six churches. Our church edifices are all good substantial and modern structures. One is built of brick, three are of stone, and two of wood.

The BAPTIST is the oldest society. In 1765 Col. Thomas Lowrey—who was the son-in-law of Samuel Fleming, after whom our town was named—gave a piece of land for a Baptist meeting-house. James Eddy joined in this gift. This lot is the one on which the present church stands. Here a house was built in 1766 under the direction of Thomas Lowrey, James Eddy and others. At that time it is supposed there were not ten houses in Flemington—indeed there was then no Flemington—but it was called Amwell Township and this new enterprise was called the "Baptist Meeting of Amwell," and having no pastor was supplied with preaching by neighboring ministers, chiefly from Kingwood and Hopewell. The services were irregular and the people sometimes disheartened, and over thirty years elapsed after the erection of a building before a society was formed. This occurred on June 19, 1798, and G. A. Hunt was the first pastor.

This primitive house becoming too small for the increasing congregation, a second one was built on the same site in 1836 It was then considered one of the best in the state. It was 45x55, "with a basement story." But this meeting-house also became too small, and in 1868 the present edifice, which is of brick, was completed and dedicated. It will seat 1,000 persons and cost about $40,000. The spire is tall and can be seen first of all as the traveller approaches Flemington. The inside of the Baptist Church has been recently renovated and so renewed its youth. A handsome organ costing about $7,000 was installed, and the building is now very attractive and well adapted for church work. The pastor is the Rev. Johnson L. Miner, who has

Photos by Miss Sunderlin, Flemington.

Churches: (1) *Catholic.* (2) *Colored M. E.* (3) *Baptist.* (4) *Soldiers Monument*

Photos by Miss Sunderlin, Flemington.

Churches: (1) *Episcopal.* (2) *Presbyterian.* (3) *Methodist*

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been serving this church since 1904. The membership is about 540.

The Presbyterian Church is the next in point of time. From the beginning of the town till about 1791 the people of this faith had to go to the Amwell churches for service. But in this year subscriptions were made with the idea that the pastor at First Amwell should preach part of the time in Flemington, as the Baptist meeting-house was offered for that purpose. In January, 1792, the first meeting was held, and about 30 Presbyterian families were represented. In the spring of 1793 ground was broken for a building. A lot of one acre and 37 perches was purchased for £40 silver. The edifice was 45x55, built of stone. For its time it was a creditable structure. It stood within the present graveyard fence. To meet the increasing demands of a growing congregation, and after many various places were considered, the purchase was made of the triangular plot where the church now stands, and a church was erected here, 56x90 feet, and dedicated May 14, 1857, at a cost of $11,000. In July, 1870, the parsonage on Main Street was occupied, having been purchased at a cost of $11,683. The congregation still growing, and the need of better accommodations being felt, the present structure was erected and dedicated November 1, 1883. The building and furniture cost $33,000. It is 138 feet in depth and 90 in breadth. The audience room is 75x90, the chapel 63x90. The membership of this church is about 500 and it is a good strong society. This edifice has just been renovated and changes made in the choir. Choir stalls have been put in, and this church is now as complete and attractive as one could desire. The church is without a pastor at this date.

Methodist Episcopal Church.—In 1822 a meeting was held one Sunday afternoon in the Court House. The men who proposed this meeting were David and Isaac James, brothers, and local preachers from Trenton. Asher Atkinson, a Quaker, was instrumental in securing them. Opinion was divided whether they should be allowed the court room for that purpose. The sheriff, however, gave his consent. The next year Flemington was made a regular appointment on the Trenton circuit. The

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first class meeting was held in the Fleming house on Bonnell Street. In 1824 the question of a church edifice was agitated. This resulted in the erection of a brick building on Main Street, now used for stores and flats. This church was begun in 1825 and completed in 1826. Later, additions were made and the building much improved.

The Court House was burned in 1828. The courts were then held in the Methodist Church till the present Court House was finished. Thus the church returned the courtesy for the use of the county buildings. An object of interest is found in the fact that a whipping post stood near this church. Later this society long felt the need of a better church in a more desirable location, as it came to be entirely surrounded with business houses. So a movement began and, in 1883, the lot on the corner of Main Street and Maple Avenue was purchased at a cost of $5,000. The house standing on the lot was removed to Broad Street and is still occupied as a dwelling. The cornerstone was laid September 4, 1886, and the church dedicated February 22, 1888. The cost of the building was $20,800. It is 54x120 feet, built of gray stone. The workmanship and material used were both excellent. Later on a pipe organ was installed. In 1907 about $3,000 was expended in renovating the church, new carpet and a new steam plant, which makes it one of the most attractive places of worship in town. In 1888 a parsonage was erected, with all improvements, making an excellent home for the pastor. The membership is about 275. The Rev. C. S. Woodruff, D.D., has been the pastor of this church since 1906.

Early in the history of these three churches above named there existed a real spirit of Christian fraternity which was manifest by the holding of union services which have been maintained till the present date. These societies unite in observing Thanksgiving, the Week of Prayer, and other such occasions. They also join regularly in the first Sunday evening of each month in the preaching service. These meetings rotate among the churches, and maintain the spirit of Christian brotherhood.

Roman Catholic Church.—The working of the copper mines brought to Flemington a number of Irish miners, some of

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whom made this their permanent home. These being mostly Roman Catholics, services were held for them occasionally from 1847 to 1848. This latter year Flemington was included in the Lambertville Parish and a priest visited the society once a month for the next four years. Mass was celebrated at the residences of the members.

The building of a church was begun in 1859. Its dimensions were 24x34 feet. In September, 1879, the cornerstone of the present edifice on Park Avenue was laid and the church was consecrated on December 21 by Bishop Corrigan. This building is 37x66 feet and cost nearly $4,000. A few years ago the congregation purchased the house on the corner of Mine and Park Streets for a rectory. The membership is now about 200. The Pastor is the Rev. William I. McKeon.

Episcopal Church.—When the first Episcopal services were held in Flemington is not known, but doubtless quite early in the last century. A chapel was built, but no dates can be secured.* This was located on Main Street just north of Mr. Weiler's store. This was afterward sold. Services, however, were held in private houses, by visiting clergymen and lay readers. Later a neat chapel was built of stone on Broad Street. There is no resident rector. This chapel was built about the year 1880.

Colored Church.—The citizens of Flemington have always been generous in caring for its colored people. A building for church purposes was bought for their use, located on North Broad Street. It is adapted as a dwelling place for the pastor as well as a suitable room for church services. There are not many families of this class in town and therefore the congregation is small This church is under the control of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the pastor is the Rev. H. A. Ivey.

* Dr. Mott's history of Flemington gives this date as 1841.

Publishers' Note: The Board of Trade Committee who had charge of the publication of this volume was composed of Messrs. J. E. Farmer, H. S. O. Van Doren and Alexander B. Allen, to whose energy and unflagging interest much credit is due. The Board of Trade also desires to extend its sincere thanks to Mrs. H. A. Fluck, Mrs. Elizabeth Bartles Hawke, the Rev. C. S. Woodruff, D. D., Mr. Marcus L. Glazer, Judge John L. Connet and Mr. Alexander B. Allen for the excellent articles contributed to these pages.

Photos by Asher R. Stryker, Flemington, N. J.

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AN HISTORICAL RÉSUMÉ

By JUDGE JOHN L. CONNET

NESTLING among the foothills of Hunterdon, one of the finest and most fertile counties in New Jersey, and near the county's centre, lies the lovely and thriving town of Flemington. "Beautiful for situation" are words that can be most fittingly and appropriately applied to it. On an elevation about 200 feet above sea level, it still lies in a valley in a rich setting of sloping hills. When these encircling hills are clad in rich verdure and autumn foliage, it looks like a jewel set in emerald and gold. Beautiful over-arching trees line its streets and in summer add much to its attractiveness. Three principal streets traverse it from north to south, which are intersected by many cross streets. These are built up with handsome residence and business houses. Fifty miles from New York and Philadelphia, it is easily accessible to both of these great cities.

Flemington had its birth in the 18th century. In was in 1756 that Samuel Fleming, from whom the town took its name, and who originally came from Ireland, purchased a tract of land and erected the first house, which is still standing on what is now Bonnell Street, near where Reading Academy now stands. It is a very modest structure as compared with buildings of more recent date and style, but when erected it could lay claim to considerable pretentiousness. It was called "Fleming's Castle." People came from long distances to see it. For a long time it was used as a public house, and there is no doubt but that the great Washington was entertained there when he was in these parts during the Revolutionary struggle.

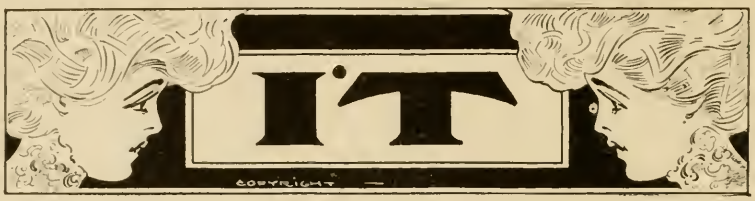
As other houses were erected and the place grew, the town was called Fleming's. This name adhered to it for a considerable time, and it is uncertain just when the name took on an additional syllable. Early as 1712 nearly all the land covering the site of the present town, and much besides, was owned by three proprietors, William Penn, Daniel Coxe and Joseph Kirkbridge. Some old deeds have the latter name "Kirkbride," while other prints

Photo by Miss Sunderlin, Flemington.

Main Street, Looking North

Photo by Miss Sunderlin, Flemington.

Mine Street, looking West from Main



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give the name as Kirkbridge. A hill adjoining the town is still known as "Coxe's Hill," from the name of the early owner of the land. Just west of the town there was for a long time in the early days an Indian encampment, and one of the chiefs of the tribe, Tuccamirdan, rests in an old burying ground not far away. Tradition says that he was buried in an upright position, with his pipes, blanket and implements of war, and that all night, on the night of his burial, a wild Indian religious dance was kept up. The spot is often visited by the curious.

At the time of the War for Independence Flemington had assumed considerable size, and it became in some degree a centre for military operations. Thomas Lowery, the son-in-law of Samuel Fleming, whose daughter, Esther, he married, was a man of prominence in the neighborhood, and in 1775 he represented Hunterdon County in the Provincial Congress. Both he and his wife were devoted to the American cause, and Lowery was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the Third Regiment of militia of the State troops. He was afterward promoted to the rank of colonel. During the war General Charles Stewart resided at Lansdown, a few miles north, and here General Washington and his wife were frequent visitors. After the war General Stewart removed to Flemington and was a representative in Congress in 1784 and 1785. He died at Flemington in 1800.

Near where the Presbyterian Church now stands was a building in which was stored a considerable quantity of American arms. The British commander feared that Flemington was to be made a rendezvous, and that the stored muskets were to be used for arming the militia. A detachment of the American army was encamped about two miles west of Flemington, near Gray's Hill, and Washington had his headquarters at the house of General Stewart. In the latter part of 1776, while the British forces lay at Trenton, a detachment of cavalry started from Trenton to Flemington for the purpose of foraging and capturing these arms, and also with a view of taking Lowery prisoner and seizing the supplies in his custody. At Pennington they halted, and sent an advance guard of about twenty light horsemen under the command of Cornet Geary, an officer of the Queen's Light Dragoons.

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These proceeded to Flemington by way of Ringoes. They destroyed the arms in the storehouse and placed the King's seal on the building. They were frightened away by the statement that there was a large American force just over the hill, and hastily started back to Pennington. But as they had come through, the dwellers about Ringoes had become alarmed, and under the leadership of Captain John Schenck, they armed themselves and united to oppose their return. They secreted themselves in the woods just below Copper Hill, and when the British came along, poured in a sharp fire upon them. Captain Schenck shouted and gave orders to his men as though he was commanding a large body of troops, thus misleading the enemy as to the opposing forces. Cornet Geary formed his men in the road and returned the fire. But after a few shots he fell from his horse mortally wounded; his troops became panic stricken and fled in terror. Geary's body was buried in the edge of the woods near by. Recently, in order to prove the fact, which for a long time was largely tradition, the grave was opened under the direction of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, in the presence of several witnesses, and all doubt was removed. Little was found, however, except some silver buttons and fringe from the officer's uniform. The buttons bore the inscription "Q. L. D. 16," and are now among the possessions of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, under whose direction the investigation was made. It is stated that Cornet Geary belonged to an aristocratic family in England, and was a man of fine physique and gentlemanly bearing. *

The first court house in Flemington was erected in 1791 and it is probable that the town then became the county seat. Before that time the courts of Hunterdon County had been held at Trenton, the County of Mercer being then a part of Hunterdon. This building was burned in 1828, and the present structure erected in the same year. The county offices are in a large brick building just north of the court house, which was built in 1870. In 1844 the population of Flemington was 600.

In the War of the Rebellion, Flemington took a conspicuous part. At the first call for troops in April, 1861, a company of

* In 1907 Sir William Nevill M. Geary of England erected a monument to Cornet Geary's memory near the spot where he fell.

men was organized and went to the front, becoming Co. H of the Third Regiment of New Jersey Militia Volunteers. The company was raised by A. V. Bonnell, Esq. He was afterward commissioned brigade inspector of New Jersey troops, and George A. Allen, a prominent lawyer of the place, became captain. Their term of enlistment was for three months, and after their return, almost all of them, with a great many others, enlisted in other organizations, and some of them continued in the service during the whole period of the war. Some of them gave up their lives on their country's altar, a willing sacrifice for their country and their flag. Colonel Lambert Boeman, who went out as major of the gallant Fifteenth New Jersey, was killed at Cedar Creek, Va., while acting as Colonel of the Tenth New Jersey. His body lies buried in the Presbyterian churchyard here. Near the fair grounds, just north of the town, was a state encampment, and there the Fifteenth, Thirtieth, Thirty-first, and Thirty-fifth Regiments were encamped before going to the front.

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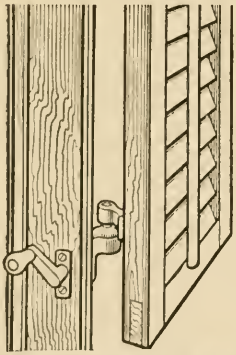

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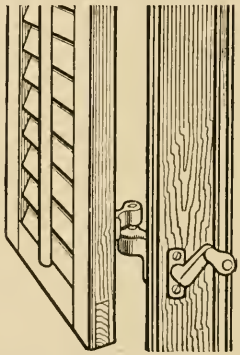

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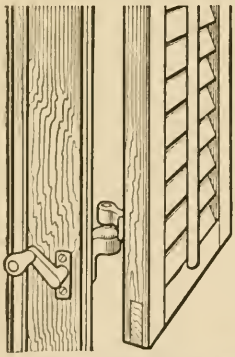

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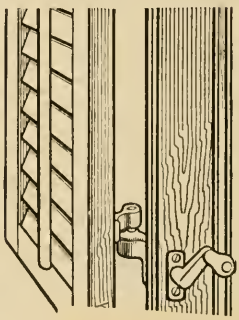

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